

God is calling us to prepare our hearts to meet with Him at the fall festivals



My heart has heard You say, “Come and talk with me (pray).” And my heart responds, “Yahweh, I am coming (to talk with You).” Psalm 27:8

The Month of Elul

Today is the first day of the month of Elul. This is the month that precedes the fall festivals which begin on the first day of Tishrei. The four Hebrew letters of the word Elul (aleph-lamed-vav-lamed) are the first letters of the four words *Ani l’dodi v’dodi lee* – “I am my Beloved’s and my Beloved is mine” (Song of Solomon 6:3). This has been YHWH’s desire all along—for us to know and experience the wholehearted love that He has for us and for us to respond with our love towards Him. The month of Elul is a special time that we have a unique opportunity to focus on that relationship. This divine love received and given is to be the foundation and motivation as to why we would want to return to Him, repent of where we’re missing His mark, and take a spiritual accounting. Without this, then the following objectives are dry and lifeless religious tasks. These are to be objective tools to personally apply **because** we love Him in order to awaken greater love.

The month of Elul is a time of spiritual workdays. We have the holy task of preparing for ourselves for the coming fall festivals, but without any holy days in the month. The traditional Jewish understanding is that YHWH is more accessible during this month. The picture used is one of a king who visits the workers in the field. In that setting there is a different protocol for the king as He is more accessible and visiting us “in our work environment” than if we as the workers as is more normative were visiting the king in his own palace.

It is also a modern convention to read Psalm 27 daily during this month. David’s heart was that God would be his “one thing” (27:4). If I could choose one thing, would it be YHWH? *My heart has heard you say, “Come and talk with me.” And my heart responds, “YHWH, I am coming.”* Psalm 27:8 *I am my Beloved's and my Beloved is mine.* Do you hear Him beckoning you to come closer? YHWH has done all the heavy lifting, but He will not do our part.

Dear saints, in this month before the fall festivals, let's draw near to the LORD. He's accessible and wants us to draw near to Him to prepare our hearts to meet with Him in this season.